Improving the quality of Doordarshan News

3137. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of doordarshan news and infrastructure continue to be very poor ; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to improve the contents at least ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) No , Sir.

(b) Even though quality of doordarshan news and infrastructure is not poor, efforts to further impove these are made continuously. Doordarshan continues to upgrade technology relating to programme production and telecasting. It upgrades and replaces equipment in studios, constructs new studios and similarly upgrades and replaces old transmitters on a continuing basis. It also installs some new transmitters every year to increase coverage.

Coverage of J and K Doordarshan Kendras

3138. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the reach of Doordarshan by this year-end ;

(b) whether doordarshan has been affected by the mushrooming of satellite channels in the recent past ;

(c) whether it is a fact that some border areas of Jammu and Kashmir can view only Pakistan Television ; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps have been taken by Government to increase the range and coverage of Jammu and Kashmir Doordarshan Kendras in this reagards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITELY) : (a) By the year end the reach of Doordarshan is estimated to cover approximately 88.5% of the population of the country.